

## OUR SCHOOLS.

PAPER NO. 3.

BY PROF. WILLIAM H. HAND.

**Short School Terms.**—As has already been noted, the average length of the white schools of the State last year was less than six months. To be exact, the average for the town and rural schools was 117 days; the rural schools alone 110 days. While this is a better showing than we made a very few years ago, still our schools are in session a little less than two-thirds of our own standard school year of 180 days, or nine months. In other words, the white people of the State are giving their children less than two-thirds of the schooling which they declare a child ought to have.

Here again is a lack of school funds, which our people, I insist, are able to provide. In many rather thickly settled and prosperous districts the schools close after six or seven months because the funds are exhausted, yet not a dollar of local school tax is collected. I know districts with from 50 to 60 white children, which depend upon the pittance of \$300 to \$325 to run their schools. Is it reasonable to expect such a district to keep its school open or to keep competent teachers? In some of these very communities I have been told, with a tinge of resentment, that the schools are better than those to which the fathers and mothers went. That may be true, and it may also be true that these same fathers and mothers are hewers of wood and drawers of water to-day, simply because they are unable to cope with those who have been better schooled. He is a very dispirited parent who is willing to withhold schooling from his child on the ground that he himself had few or no advantages.

However, short school terms are by no means entirely due to lack of money. Strange as it may seem, there are many districts which close their schools at the end of six, five and even four months, with half as much money left in the county treasury as they spent on their schools. I know schools which have to their credit enough money to run them twice as long as they have been run any year within the past five. In fact, some entire counties are making what the officials call a good financial showing, at the expense of the school children. For instance, Florence county had on hand, June 30, 1907, a balance of \$35,825 to the credit of the school fund, while she had spent only \$27,050 on her schools that year. In other words the schools had at the close of the scholastic year a balance of \$8,775 more than the entire cost of the schools that year. Financially that may be a good showing; how is it educationally? Let us see: Florence county kept her white schools open last year six months; she paid her teachers an average of \$250 a year; she gave each white teacher an average of 36 pupils to teach; Chester county makes but little better showing. She kept her white schools open seven and one-fourth months, paid her white teachers an average of \$296 a year, and gave each teacher an average of 31 pupils to teach. Yet Chester county closed these schools with a balance larger than the total expenditure that year. I believe in running the schools strictly on a cash basis, and I know it is necessary to close the books on the 30th of June with enough balance to run the schools until the next tax collection has been made. But is it sound business or common sense to cut off the school year, pay boggary salaries, and give each teacher too many pupils to teach, in order to show a money balance? Of course under such policy our school boards can boast of having money on hand. As I see it, we have more need for money on the children. A man could doubtless make a fortune on a salary of \$500 a year, if he were to go naked and hungry, and keep all his earnings at ten per cent compound interest; but what would he be getting?

After all, do our people wish to keep the schools open nine months in the year? Repeatedly I have had fathers (mothers very rarely) oppose the attempt to lengthen their school beyond six months. Their contention is that the children can not be spared from the farms and the mills for a longer period. Except in case of extreme poverty in the homes of very unfortunate people, this argument means nothing less than that the child is looked upon as a bread-winner. The parent is either too short-sighted or too selfish to give his child the opportunity to become even a bread-winner, save in the humblest callings. Such a parent needs to be shown how his child may be trained until he becomes a master of something, and a citizen useful to the State. Every child should be taught to work—to work intelligently and profitably, but his ultimate success and usefulness should not be sacrificed to immediate selfish gain.

**Poor School Houses and Poor Equipment.**—There are at least two very distinct kinds of poor school houses. The building itself may be worthless; a good building may be unfit for school purposes. It is possible to invest a modest sum of money in a good school building. What we know as school architecture is yet in a very crude and undeveloped state, if we are to judge from some of our recent school buildings. Some of even the larger towns of the State have taxed themselves liberally to erect new school buildings, and have very inferior ones. Not one cent of public money should be permitted to be used in a school house until the plans of the building have been favorably passed upon by some thoroughly competent person. Some of the most common

defects in our school buildings are small class rooms, low ceilings, insufficient window space, windows set in front and to the right of the pupils when seated, tops of the windows too far from the ceiling, poor heating, and poor ventilation. These defects are found in the town building and in the rural buildings.

We have some excellent school houses. Among the larger towns the buildings in Florence, Darlington, and Georgetown, together with the latest buildings in Greenville, collect in almost every detail. The Spartanburg and Sumter, are excellent in almost everything. The Taylor school, in Columbia, is another excellent building, but I am forced to add that this is Columbia's only public school building worthy of the name. A number of the smaller towns have relatively excellent buildings, notably St. George and Summerton, Belton, Brunson, Chesterfield, Fountain Inn, Manning and Seneca each will soon have a new building of modern type. On the other hand, some of the towns have very poor buildings. There are in this State four towns whose taxable property combined was returned last year at \$1,400,000, in round figures, and whose four school houses for white children would not sell at auction for more than \$1,500. Of course these buildings cost much more than their present value, but they are almost worthless to-day as school houses. In these same towns are beautiful homes, good stores, good banks, attractive churches, and even good barns for the horses and cattle. Can the citizens of these places make themselves believe that they are not "discouraging schools"? They can not make other people believe it, I am sure.

The rural school houses are relatively inferior to those in the towns. Many of them are little better than dingy sheds, unpainted, ugly in appearance, poorly lighted, poorly heated, and miserably equipped. Many of these houses are not celled on the walls or overhead. When they are celled, that overhead is often so low that the tallest boys can reach it with their heads. Not one building in three has enough window space properly distributed. The windows are small and placed equidistant from the floor and ceiling. It is no uncommon thing to find a room of children sitting with their faces toward one, and even two, open windows, while the room at their backs is comparatively dark. In 1905, the State Superintendent of Education issued a pamphlet giving designs for modern school houses, which have done much towards improving their character.

Very few of our schools are equipped as they should be. Hundreds of good desks have been put in within the past five years, but there are yet scores of school houses loaded with the most clumsy and unsightly and uncomfortable desks known to suffering backs and limbs. The blackboards are too few in number, made of the cheapest material, and the surface is no longer black. In many of our school rooms is not seen a map or a chart from September to June. Even the famous charts have been relegated to some closet of plunder. Were it not for the genius of my friend, Mr. Hughes, of Greenville, many of our school houses would be absolutely without any kind of globe. The State has very wisely provided hundreds of schools with small libraries. In most places these libraries are used much and well cared for, but in altogether too many places the books are torn to pieces, some scattered through the neighborhood, and some lost. What else can be expected when the school house stands open to every body and everything.

A dirty school house is inexcusable, and is a disgrace to a community. Here the teacher is chiefly responsible. Any teacher, man or woman, who keeps a dirty school house is rather poorly fitted to train children. You can not readily refine the tastes of a child who is compelled to sit five hours a day in the midst of filth and clutter.

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### SIGN FOR HOME.

**Wants a Real Good Bait of Hog and Hominy.**

A dispatch from London to the New York Herald says Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, who is making his first European tour, likes London very much, though he signs in vain for the delicacies of the table of "Young South."

"Young man," said the Senator this morning, "if you will only tell me where I can get some real corn meal in this town, you will make me your debtor for life."

A friend who was standing near supplied the information and the Senator was off in his thanks.

"Well, sir, I've had a hard time to get something to eat over here. You know a man used all his life to our Southern cooking just naturally craves for something that has corn in it. I don't eat beef and I haven't the hardest time everywhere I have been trying to explain what I meant by breakfast bacon, but as for corn bread and hominy grits, why, sir, I haven't been able to find a trace of them anywhere, so I just thought if I could only find somebody to tell me where I could get some corn meal I would take it to my stopping place and show the cook how to make a nice, yellow pone of corn bread or an ashcake. Brompton road, did you say? I am certainly much obliged."

## WEAPONS ARE DESTROYED.

**An Unwritten Law, Based on Superstition, of Royal Houses.**

For obvious reasons it was natural that the Spanish police should be anxious to secure the bomb which did not explode when thrown at the royal couple. There was a reason behind the desire to nip in the bud chances of further damage. There is an unwritten law in the reigning houses of Europe, says the London Standard, that all relics of attempts upon royal lives, as well as the instruments used for treating the wounds caused in such attempts, shall be destroyed. There was a solemn assembly in Geneva of Austro-Hungarian officials to witness the destruction of the instrument which caused the death of the Empress Elizabeth and of the surgical post-mortem examination.

The custom is based to a certain extent upon superstition, but more solidly upon the determination to prevent the relics from falling into the hands of exhibitors of such tragic trifles.

The custom in this matter once was to grind to pieces the weapon which had been employed. When, however, the dagger was secured with which the priest Martin Merino attempted to murder Queen Isabella of Spain, rather more than half a century ago, the blade was found to be of such finely tempered steel that it resisted every effort of file and stone.

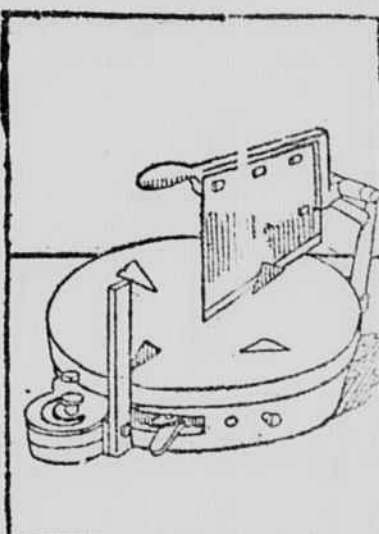
Something like a panic was caused when the news got abroad, the Spanish peasants imagined that there must be magic in the blade. So a cabinet was specially summoned to deal with the crisis, and it was determined to submit the steel to the influence of acids. This proving successful, all implements used for the like foul purpose have undergone the like treatment—knives, swords, daggers, revolvers and, presumably, bombs.

It was cruel irony that the bombs thrown at the young king and queen of Spain should be hurled by a man secreted in the only house in Madrid owned by Queen Christina. This, at first sight, is surprising. Napoleon III, in the terror which Orsini's attempt inspired, bid for safety by buying up the houses facing the Tuileries, so that bombs should not be flung thence by his enemies.

It is from places whose position should guarantee their safety that danger comes. Only a miracle prevented Alexander II, from being blown to atoms in his own winter palace. The Grand Duke Sergei was assassinated outside the law courts at St. Petersburg; Gen. Robrikoff was slain when entering the senate; M. Plehve was struck dead with his secret police all around him; the king and queen of Serbia perished in their own palace.

### Useful Cheese Cutter.

A new idea in cheese cutters for use in grocery stores has been patented by an Indiana man. In the majority of cheese cutters at present employed the cutting blade extends the entire width of the cheese on the cutter. The operator is thus



CUTS ANY SIZE SLICE.

compelled to cut the length of the cheese, and where the quantity required is small the cut is naturally very thin.

This objection is overcome in the cutter shown here, as the cutting knife extends only one-half the width of the cheese. The top of the table moves freely, the knife being stationary and pivoted to a frame at the back. An arrangement for indicating the size of the cut is secured to the front of the table. The ease with which a pound or two of cheese can be sliced off will be apparent at once. In fact, the dividing mechanism is so accurate that it is unnecessary to weigh the cut, as is generally done.

### Costly Wallpaper Design.

A new design in fancy wall paper patterns comes from Kansas City; also a way to utilize cancelled checks. A firm has had all its offices papered with old checks, placed neatly edge to edge. The face figures of the checks vary from \$30,000 to \$1,000, and the total for one room is \$8,000. As a gift moulding runs around the edges of each check-panel, the general effect is rather pleasing.

### Liable to Discharge.

M. Boyer, the director of the post office at Lausanne, has addressed a circular to the postal employees in the town warning them that in future toothache will not be considered an excuse for absence from work. They must either get the tooth out or get out themselves.

### NEGRO CONSPIRACY A FAKE?

People at Ninety-Six so Regard Affairs of the Negroes.

There have been no further developments in the matter of the negro conspiracy, so-called, at Ninety-Six. The prevailing opinion at Greenwood and also at Ninety-Six, as ascertained by interviews, is that the thing is a "fake," a scheme hatched up by one negro to get revenge on other negroes for wrongs of his own.

## NEGRO KILLS FARMER

**EMANUEL CARVER SHOT DOWN IN COTTON FIELD.**

**First Reports that Negro Had Been Lynched by Posse Prove False.**

**He Is Lodged in Jail.**

Carver, a young white man about 30 years of age, living six miles South of Saluda, was shot and instantly killed Thursday afternoon by Will Herrin, colored. The killing took place in a field, where he was picking cotton, and the negro, Herrin, who did the killing, it is claimed, was of unsound mind. Herrin went to Carver's field, and without warning or notice, shot him down. Information received is that after killing Carver he also tried to kill Carver's wife, who, it appears, was in the field. Mrs. Carver grabbed the gun and saved herself from a similar fate to that of her husband.

News of the shooting rapidly spread in the community, and a posse was quickly formed, and from the reports just received they had captured the negro, and it is supposed have lynched him. Young Martin Matheny, states that he was informed that the negro had been captured, and while being pursued was shot, but not fatally. After he passed the Carver home he heard a volley of guns and pistols, and the supposition now is that the negro has been killed.

The killing of Mr. Carver was a most cold-blooded act. A brother of Herrin was in Saluda last night, even looking for the Probate Judge, saying that a member of his family was crazy, and he wanted to know what should be done about it.

From all the reports it appears that Will Herrin shot Mr. Carver while the former's brother was then at Saluda looking for the Probate Judge with a view of having him committed to the State Hospital for the insane. It is also stated that Will Herrin attempted to kill two negroes that afternoon. Sheriff Sample was phoned and left soon after for the Carver home, the scene of the killing, and has not returned yet.

A later dispatch from Saluda, Sheriff Sample has just returned to Saluda with Will Herrin, who Thursday afternoon shot and killed Mr. Carver. The negro is suffering from several gunshot wounds inflicted in order to effect his capture. After shooting Mr. Carver down in the field Herrin broke his gun over Mr. Carver's head, and went and armed himself with another gun.

When the news of Mr. Carver's death was made known, Mr. H. J. Forest, Mr. Bunyan, Watson and others attempted to capture the negro, and while doing so were compelled to fire on him to avoid being shot themselves.

Herrin had hidden in the woods near Mr. Carver's home, and when called upon by Mr. Forest and others to surrender he refused to do so, but instead attempted to fire upon them. One of the shots fired by the pursuers took effect in the negro's eye and others in his body. Herrin is now in Saluda jail suffering from his wounds.

Sheriff Sample states that Mr. Carver's neighbors assured him that no attempt would be made to lynch Herrin. They desire that the law take its course.

At this hour Sheriff Sample is undecided whether to take the negro to Columbia for safekeeping. The gentleman who captured the negro could have easily lynched him had they so desired. After taking Herrin into custody no effort was made to harm him, and he was readily turned over to the sheriff.

Sheriff Sample says that Herrin has as good sense as anybody and, so far as he can see, shows no symptoms of insanity. The negro says the reason he killed Mr. Carver was because of a difference arising out of a buggy trade. He wanted to buy the buggy, but Mr. Carver asked him too much for it.

### THE HATLESS GIRL.

**We Welcome Her and Hope She Will Ride Awee.**

We do not know—we almost fear to hope—whether it is the setting in of a new fashion, this charming custom of girls going about hatless, but if it is let us welcome it with exceeding joy. She is becoming ubiquitous, this girl without a hat, and in the street or in the stores, in the parks, wherever she may be, she adds beauty to the landscape and picturesque interest to the view.

More welcome too will the new-old custom of the fair sex be if one of its results is the dethroning of that awful monstrosity, the "Merry Widow" hat, that dire shape of straw that mows a swath of discomfort through our throats and which has added to the burdens of a torrid summer.

Let us hope that the new style of "merry widow" has come about through female recognition of the eternal verity of the poet who declared that the crowning glory of a woman is her hair.

It may be that the girls who are braving convention, declaring their freedom from the thralls of the milliner and making life more beautiful by discarding their hats need encouragement. For heaven's sake let us all get together and praise the sex for its good sense. We should say at a rough estimate that the matrimonial chances of the girl without a hat as against the girl with a "Merry Widow" were at least 100 to 1, and that should help some if its truth can be proved. All hail to the sensible American girl and her crown of glorious hair!

## WHY HE DIDN'T TELL HER.

**Tried to Have a Chance to Explain—But She Wouldn't Let Him.**

"I didn't tell you, did I, Mildred?" said Mr. Cavil to his wife, "that I saw your sister Jane downtown one day last week?"

"No, you didn't," Charles Augustus Cavil, replied Mrs. Cavil. "Why didn't you?"

"Well, you see—"

"Yes, I see. You meet the only sister I have in the world and instead of coming straight home and telling me about it the same day, as any respectable husband would have done, you keep the matter secret a whole week and then ask carelessly if you have mentioned the fact that you saw her."

"You saw her?"

"Don't you see, Charles Augustus Cavil, I have no doubt that she sent me a message by you, and that you have not only failed to deliver it, but by this time you have forgotten what it was about. Tell me if this isn't the case."

"My dear, it was this way—"

"Don't tell me it was that way, Charles Augustus Cavil. I know exactly how it was. You simply didn't care a straw whether I knew that you had seen sister Jane or not, and you would not have waited a whole week to tell me you had seen her."

"But I didn't say I saw her," Mr. Cavil said at length.

"Then I'd like to know what you did say, Charles Augustus Cavil."

"I asked you if I told you that I saw her," explained Mr. Cavil.

"Well, why didn't you tell me?"

"The reason I didn't tell you was because I didn't see her; that's all. Mrs. Cavil gasped and was speechless."

### The Deal Fell Through.

He had been drinking. That was very evident to the woman who came to the door in answer to his ring.

"Shay," he began after looking up and down the street nervously, "you put advertisement (hic) in paper shaming?"

"I did," she replied.

"You shod you (hic) would give good home to eat."

"Yes, have you a cat you wish to get rid of?"

"Besh yer life!" he replied heartily.

She was about to ask for further particulars when a stockily built, angry looking woman stopped at the gate and motioned to the man with the remark:

"Jake, you drunken fool, come down here to me this minute!"

"Thash her—thash her, cat I want to get home for," he whispered.

"Shay when?"

The lady who wanted a feline, however, quickly moved and locked the door, while her caller slunk down the steps and was led away by the ear.

### Wall Street Preference.

"I don't see why Socks and Bonds, insists on going with Miss Goldust, when he could just as well take up with Miss Grotzox. The latter comes from old American stock."

"That may be true," replied Mrs. Grotzox, smilingly, "but he prefers Miss Goldust because she comes from water stock, her ancestors were Baptists, you know."

### Judge.

"Judge."

"Judge."

"Judge."

"Judge."

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"Judge."

## DOGS AS WATCHMEN'S HELPERS

**Daily Trained and Often Show Considerable Sagacity.**

Training dogs to assist the watchmen and police is a very simple matter," said an old private watchman of Boston, who formerly walked a beat in the South End.

"Dogs like the work. They enjoy prowling around through alleys and back yards and nosing into corners and behind barrels and piles of boxes, and their wonderful sense of smell often enables them to locate an intruder so securely hidden that his presence would never be suspected by a watchman."

"When I was walking a beat a large Newfoundland dog began following me of his own accord. I didn't encourage him at first, but let him go along on my rounds as much for company as anything else. That dog watched me like a detective and seemed to understand everything I did; followed me into every yard, and in less than a week knew every house that I was employed to watch."

"In ten days he was doing a large part of my work. Of course he could not try the doors, but after the first round, when I tried all the doors and saw that everything was right, all I had to do was to send him in to search the yard, and he did it thoroughly. If anything was wrong he backed and I ran in to see what was the matter. Once a back door was open. The gentleman of the house had come in late, left the door unlatched and the wind blew it open. The dog knew it was wrong and barked for me to come."

"Another time I heard him barking in a back yard, and running in found he had cornered a man hiding behind a pile of boards. The dog worked with me for nearly three years. Every evening, no matter what the weather, that dog was on hand at the patrol box where I reported. On cold nights we would go into an engine house to warm, and while the dog enjoyed the warming hour as much as I did he was no skulker, but whenever I was ready to go he was ready, too."

"I lost him because his owner moved out of the city, but as soon as it became known among the dog population that he wasn't working, his place was taken by a hound that I had often noticed following us in a furtive fashion, as though he would like to be of the party, but didn't want to intrude, and the new dog seemed from the first to understand every thing that ought to be done and did it as well as his predecessor."

### The Scotch Jury.

In Scotland in a civil case jury-men get ten shillings a day for their services, and the litigants must in addition provide them with lunch. If two cases are tried consecutively on one day, and the same juryman officiate, they get ten shillings for each case.

But the most important difference between an English and a Scotch jury is this: An English jury when returning their verdict must be unanimous, and if they fail to agree after a certain length of time they are dismissed and the whole proceedings are begun again de novo before a fresh jury. This is a most expensive mode of administering justice. In civil cases, in order to avoid this result, the litigants sometimes agree to accept the verdict of a majority. In Scotland the jury can always give a verdict by a majority, in civil cases after the lapse of three hours.

In the Days of Broganus.

Is there such a thing in the market as a brogan? Forty years ago the brogan (bro-GAN) was the ideal shoe of the farmer and laborer. It was cheap—\$1 a pair—and with the roughest kind of treatment would last through a season of plowing and harvesting. Two pairs were enough for a year's wear. At first the shoe was coarse and hard, but when we put it on we soaked our feet in the creek, or branch, until the leather (cowhide) got soft and pliant, where it would fit itself to the foot as paper fits the wall. Thereafter all you had to do to keep the brogan in fine fettle was to grease it with tallow once a week, which rendered it soft and waterproof. It ought to be the ideal shoe for boys who make rough houses. It takes blacking well and will shine and reflect like a mirror when polished.—New York Press.

## WILL RAISE OTHER CROPS.

**Farmers May Quit Cotton in Boll Weevil Belt.**

A movement has been put on foot among the farmers in that section of southwest Mississippi infested by the Mexican boll weevil to plant a minimum cotton acreage next year, and devote the major portion of tillable land to corn, oats, forage crops and truck products.

The movement has the backing of the Farmers' Union and is commended by the special agents of the United States department of agriculture, who are employed in that section of the state and who hold that a rotation of crops is imperative as one of the measures for the suppression of the pest.

The weevil has played havoc with the crop in the counties of Jefferson, Amite, Adams, Wilkinson and Franklin, and it is predicted that before the end of the present month it will enter the counties of Hinds, Lincoln, Pike and Copiah.

This is the condition in Mississippi, but it is only a question of a short time when the same condition will have to be faced by South Carolina farmers. The boll weevil is steadily marching this way and it will not be long before he will be knocking at our door. So our farmers may as well get ready for the pest by planting something else besides cotton. The boll weevil has come to stay.

People who are true blue never suffer much from the blues.

Those who think they have all religion are the ones who most need to "utter side down" more than half the time.

After all, our bread doesn't fall "utter side down" more than half the time.

You cannot win men from glistering sin by a gloomy salvation.

You can measure any creed by its results in character.

### PIANO AND ORGAN ECONOMY.

If you are interested in the purchase of a PIANO or an ORGAN, we want to sell you one.

Don't think you must go to some mail order house to buy a low priced piano or organ; nor outside of South Carolina to get the best piano or organ. We have a great variety of grades, and all styles, at prices which cannot fail to interest you. We are manufacturers factory representatives for several of the largest and most famous makers of pianos and organs.

We take old instruments in exchange and make most liberal terms of payment to those who wish to buy on time. No house—quality of pianos and organs considered—undersells us. Twenty-four years of fair dealing in Columbia and throughout South Carolina is our reference and guarantee.

Write us at once for catalog price and terms.

Malone's Music House, Columbia, S.C.  
Pianos and Organs.

## CLASSIFIED COLUMN

### WANTED.

**FOR SALE.**—Common building brick, red color, immediate delivery. Prices upon application. Camden Press Brick Co., Camden, S. C.

**WANTED.**—Pine logs bought for cash. For particulars address Sumter Lumber Co., Sumter, S. C.

**FOR SALE.**—One 5 horse power Blakeslee Gasoline Engine. Cost over \$100. Will take \$100 for it. \$50 repairs will get it in good condition. Apply to Jas. L. Sims, Orangeburg, S. C.

### TEACHERS—TRUSTEES.

We secure schools for teachers and have many excellent vacancies. We recommend teachers to trustees and sell school furniture of all kinds. Write, Southern Teachers' Agency, Columbia, S. C.

**WANTED.**—Clerks, cotton buyers, farmers, warehousemen and others to learn grading and classifying cotton in our sample rooms, or through correspondence course. Thirty day scholarship completes you. American Cotton College, Milledgeville, Ga.

## WHOLESALE

Plumbing Supplies

Machinery Supplies

**SOUTHERN STATES SUPPLY COMPANY**  
COLUMBIA, S. C.

SEND US YOUR MAIL ORDERS.

**Gibbes "Portable" Shingle Mill.**

Next Week! Watch This Space.

It's GIBBES It's Good!

Good!

Good!

Good!

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